

HOUSE BILL 1978
By Phillips

AN ACT To name the Fire Station at the new Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County in honor of Fayetteville Fire Chief Robert Strope.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those sterling public servants who have served their respective communities with the greatest acumen, integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, No Tennessean is more deserving of special recognition than Robert Strope, who has served with distinction as Chief of the City of Fayetteville's Fire Department for some 23 years; and

WHEREAS, A native and lifelong resident of Lincoln County, Robert Strope began his illustrious career in fire service as a volunteer fireman with the Flintville Volunteer Station; and

WHEREAS, From 1975-1978, Mr. Strope served with the utmost ability and integrity as the Director of the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Robert Strope assumed the reins of leadership as the City of Fayetteville's Fire Chief; throughout his illustrious tenure in this vital position, Chief Strope has evidenced consummate professionalism and great compassion for both the public he so faithfully serves and the firefighters he so ably supervises; and

WHEREAS, Chief Strobe has adroitly served his profession in numerous other capacities, but especially as a valuable member of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs' Association; a member of the Legislative Committee since 1992, he served astutely as President in 1997 and as the association's representative on the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors from 1993-2000; and

WHEREAS, He was deservedly recognized as "Outstanding Fire Chief of the Year" by his colleagues in the Tennessee Fire Chiefs' Association in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of Chief Strobe's illustrious career is the instrumental role he has played and continues to play in the development of the new Tennessee Fire Services and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, Chief Strobe has served with distinction as Chairman of TFCA's Legislative Committee since the inception of the Academy project, which was, in fact, initiated by the association; and

WHEREAS, Chief Strobe has generously shared his singular expertise in fire service and codes enforcement with his colleagues and state government as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Academy since 1997; and

WHEREAS, Scheduled to open in 2001, the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy will offer the latest in training technology, state-of-the-art equipment and a full spectrum of educational courses for fire service and codes enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, The Academy's full service campus will feature dedicated structures for realistic fire and codes scenarios, a hands-on training center with specialized laboratories, modern classrooms with a supporting research library and a three-bay fire station with accommodations for 25 trainees; and

WHEREAS, The Academy's unique dual curriculum of fire and codes subject matter will be comprehensive and challenging and will produce certified professionals well trained in applicable state and national standards; and

WHEREAS, Chief Strobe is also proficient in the codes enforcement segment of the Academy's dual curriculum; he is a State Certified Building and Fire Codes Inspector and a member of the State Certification Commission in this area; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his meritorious service to his fellow citizens as Fayetteville's Fire Chief, Robert Strobe has worked to ensure the public safety and welfare as a member of the Lincoln County E-911 Board since its inception in 1990; and

WHEREAS, His many accolades and accomplishments aside, Chief Strobe is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Rebecca Towry Strobe, and his two children, three step-children and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, For over twenty years, Chief Robert Strobe has dedicated himself and the resources of his department to the safety of his fellow Lincoln Countians; as part of his indelible legacy as a firefighter and public servant he has ensured the health, welfare and safety of both present and future Tennesseans by working tirelessly to make the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy a reality; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly should not let this remarkable feat go unheralded; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Fire Station (located immediately west of the intersection of Loop Road and Campus Drive on the Academy's campus) at the new Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County is hereby designated as the "Robert Strobe Fire Station" as a lasting tribute to one of the most outstanding citizens and public servants this state has ever produced, City of Fayetteville Fire Chief Robert Strobe, and his instrumental role in the development of the Academy.

SECTION 2. The State Fire Marshal is directed to erect suitable signs designating such edifice as the "Robert Strobe Fire Station". The dimensions of such signs shall be at least four feet wide by six feet long (4'x6') with letters of proportional size.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.